[Shri Dwaraka Nath Das]

of the Government towards the drinking water problem is my constituency. I have been elected to Lok Sabha from Aurangabad constituency in Bihar. Though, whole of Bihar is faced with drinking water problem but in my constituency, the situation which was there before 1966, has arisen again this year. In my constituency, the water level has gone down to the extreme low level. Reseult quitly all the handpums, ponds, well etc. have dried which has created severe drinking water problem. People are not taking their bath upto 15 days as the water is not available. In case they have to take their bath, at all, they first sit on some water away and filter the water, only then they take their both with that filtered water. Such a situation has arisen only due to the heavy down fall in the water level. Though the Government have introduced prompt water supply scheme for rural areas but no work is being undertaken under this scheme. I, through you, request the Government to install at least one handpump in every village in my constituency so that water is made available to the people of my constituency. It is very necessary to make adequate arrangements to tide over the present drinking water problem. Today people are forced to use inhygenic and contaminated water available only in pits and wells. They filter it and drink it. I want the Government to pay their immediate attention towards this problem.

DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today after a long gap I have got an opportunity to speak. I am going to raise a very important matter which pertains to the State of Gujarat. In Tapti High Gas area of Gujarat, every day nearly 45-50 lakh cubic metere gas is being produced. Earlier it war decided that only 30 lakh cubic metere gas would be produced daily which was on based on the installed capacity of the plant but today we are producing daily 15 to 20 lakh cubic meter gas in excess. During the tenure of late Shri Rajeev Gandhi, it was decided that from the up coming Pipawav power gas project in Gujarat, a high quantity of gas would be supplied to the state.

But, Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far nothing has been done in that regard. Gujarat is faced with acute power shortage. Currently 48 hundred MW electricity is being generated in Gujarat wherever the requirement is to the tune of 62 hundred MW per day. Our second Pipawav Power Project is undergoing construction at a distance of 5-10 km. from Tapti Gas High area the additional quantity of gas produced is not being given to the Pipawav Power project which is very close to the Tapti Gas High area as the same is being diverted to the Northern India. I, through you, request the Government to ensure that the additional quantity of gas being produced in Tapti High is given to the Pipawav Power Project and the same is not diverted somewhere else.

[English]

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Sir, Tripura was earlier a princely tribal State. It is surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides. Because of the heavy infiltration from the erstwhile East Pakistan and now Bangladesh, the majority tribal people have no become minority. The infiltration from Bangladesh is still going on. It is increasing day by day.

Moreover, Tripura is being used by the extremists in the northeast as a corridor for smuggling arms, ammunitions etc. from Thailand via Myanmar and Bangladesh. The ISI, Pakistani Intelligence Agency, is very active in this region, Recently, the ISI had stepped up their activities in the whole region. The State Government of Tripura has repeatedly requested the Central Government to construct border fencing along Tripura-Bangladesh border, to increase the Border Security Force and to construct border roads.

In the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, the Home Secretary Shri K. Padmanabhaiah categorically stated that the Home Ministry is in favour of construction of border fencing along the Tripura-Bangladesh border. They have submitted a project to the Finance Ministry. But they are not able to get it approved by the Finance Ministry.

I would call upon the Government of India of take steps to stop insurgent activities in the region. It is essential to have the work of border fencing taken up immediately. The Finance Ministry should immediately sanction the project, so that the work can be started.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue through you. The scam to the time of Rs. 150 crs. in The Bank of Rajasthan Limited – a private sector bank is being published in the newspaper for the lost many days.

Sir, The Bank of Rajasthan Limited was established in 1943. At present, this bank has extended loan worth Rs. 1650 crore and it has Rs. 3000 crore as deposits. More than Fifth percent shares of this bank were purchased by an industrialist Shri Kashav Bangar and his father Shri Sriniwas Bangar in 1992. After claiming ownership right of

the bank, they set up Rajasthan Bank. Financial Services, an advertising company named Akshar Bharat, Bangar Finance Limited, BFL. Software Ltd., Mridula Commodities (Pvt.) Limited, Kaveri Vyapar Pvt. Limited, Swagatam Impax Pvt. Ltd., and Kshitij Exima Pvt. Ltd. and opened the accounts of these companies in the selected branches of the Bank of Rajasthan Limited.

Sir, after proclaiming their control over the bank, Bangars promoted many favoured officers and appointed many officers ignoring their disqualifications and handed over the control of main branches and department of the banks to them. Ten main branches of the bank including Chaurangi Road branch of Calcutta, Janpath and Karol bagh branches of New Delhi, Fort branch of Mumbai and the branches of Madras, Bangalore, M.I. Road and Jauhari branches of Jaipur were declared high tech branches and were put under direct control of his favoured managing director Shri N.M. Chauradia. The scam of more than Rs. 150 crores has mainly taken place in some of these branches of the Bank.

The national organisation of bank workers had time and again made complaints to higher officers of the bank and RBI on the regard; but this scam took place because no satisfactory action was taken in this regard. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Govt.. of India to present the actual position of the scam before the House after getting it enquired by CBI so that misappropriation of the public money could be checked immediately.

SHRI CHARIMAN LAL GUPTA : (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge open the Govt. and Shri Joce Saheb to give a patient hearing to what i say. The tragedy of Amarnath Yatra took place during August last year in which around 300 people who come from different parts of the country were killed. A committee was constituted after that which presented its report but unfortunately could not be discussed in the House. The Ministry of Home Affairs released the report at the fag end of the session due to which it could not be discussed. I would like to request that the said report should be properly discussed in the House.

Secondly, it is my good luck that Finance Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is present in the Gallery today, therefore, my point would reach the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir soon. We all know that when this incident occurred last year, it was stated by the State Govt. that it did not expect the influx of so many people and therefore this tragedy took place. The people all our the country are enchanted by the attraction of Amarnath. The People of the country have an attachment for Kashmir but they are unable to go there due to the condition prevailing there. This is the suitable occasion for the people of the different parts of the country when they come in a large number for the yatra. Therefore, the arrangement for this purpose should not be made temporarily. It is a very tectious journey unlike journeying Haridwara. It needs sufficient arrangements.

I request you that a waning should be given to Union as well as State Govt. to make immediate arrangements of all the necessary items. Last time, we could not provide even wireless sets. Lioson or coordination between armed and civilian services is necessary. If we do not start making arrangements in this regard immediately from now onwards, the yatra cannot become successful. We want this yatra to be successful and Kashmir should get the credit for it. But it is possible only when both the Governments are active in this regard and a fault proof arrangement should be made in consultation with the elected members of Parliament so that this yatra may become a success.

13.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to formulated a special plan for Disilting Pushkar Sarovar in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : There is a famous pilgrim centre Pushkar in my Parliamentary constituency Ajmer (Rajasthan) which is important not only from the pilgrimage point but from the tourism points of view also. The silt carried by rain water – nullabs is deposited every year in Pushkar Sarovar due to which the sarovar has become Shallow and other natural resources of water have also dried up. As a result thereof, this holy lake does not have water during the summer season and thousands of pilgrims visiting this place are deprived of the holy dip.